

MORAL CAMEOS FOR MUSALMANS

And verily, for those
Who do wrong, there is
Another punishment besides
this:
But most of them
Understand not.
Now await in patience
The Command of thy Lord:
For verily thou art
In Our eyes:
And celebrate the praises
Of thy Lord the while
Thou standest forth,
And for part of the night
Also praise thou Him,—
And at the retreat
Of the stars!

—The Quran; Tur; 47 to 49

Dawn

Thursday, January 2, 1947.

CONGRESS INDECISION

IT is yet beyond us to ascertain what the Congress proposes to do with the Grouping issue. The Congress President, Mr. Kripalani, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Mr. Shankar Rao Deo paid a visit to Mr. Gandhi at Srirampur last week for guidance on this crucial issue. They held talks with him for two days and the outcome of those long discussions is now in the realm of speculations of a conflicting nature. News agencies, without a single exception believe that the Congress is likely to accept H.M.G.'s interpretation of the Grouping clauses as set out in their Statement of December 6. But its acceptance is reported to be hedged in by certain conditions. What those conditions are is not known. The Congress triumvirate who went to Mr. Gandhi to seek light are themselves reluctant to throw any light on them. All that can be gathered about the outcome of their winged mission to Srirampur is that Mr. Gandhi tendered them some advice, which Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru will put up before the A.I.C.C. which meets in Delhi on January 5.

It is suggested by a news agency that Mr. Gandhi is as much opposed to the acceptance of H.M.G.'s Statement of December 6 as his visitors. But they are reportedly willing to modify their attitude in the hope that it may help to bring in the Muslim League into the Constituent Assembly, which has been reduced to a farce owing to the absence of this sole political organization of ten crores of Indian Musalmans. This, if true, reflects the Congress penchant for expediency rather than any change of heart on its part. Let there be no mistake about the real meaning of H.M.G.'s Statement. It is so categorical that it leaves no room for half-hearted, far less conditional, acceptance. It must be accepted in the words of Qaed-e-Azam Jinnah in Karachi, a few days ago, in toto unequivocally so as to enable the Muslim League to revise its earlier decision on the Constituent Assembly.

We have lately noticed more to our amusement than satisfaction the transformation of some of the snarling Congress lions into cooing doves. The iron man of the Congress, Sardar Patel, who is known as the party fixer, is an instance in point. Ever since he became the Home, Information and Broadcasting Member in the Interim Government he has been pouring vials of scorn on the League. Strangely enough at Ahmedabad, last week, the belated realisation dawned upon him that communal dissensions in the country would have to be solved by Hindus and Muslims themselves, and that so long as such bickerings con-

tinued, the country would not achieve freedom. We use the word strangely advisedly, since of all persons Sardar Patel, who not long ago, further exacerbated the already strained communal feelings by his violent speeches at Nagpur and Bombay, should realise at long last that communal differences are a hindrance to the attainment of freedom. He suggested airily that the best course for the Muslim League would be to enter the Constituent Assembly and try to convince the Congress of its case. This kind of suggestions will deceive nobody. In a House where the Hindus constitute an overwhelming majority, it would be impossible for the League to carry conviction.

Nevertheless, in his present mood, as we can guess from his speeches at Ahmedabad last week, Sardar Patel is a sadder, though not wiser man. That is not helpful. What he and the men of his ilk need is wisdom, which they woefully lack. It is not enough either for Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to say enigmatically in reply to a question by a newspaperman in Calcutta that the Constituent Assembly would carry on unless, of course, there was any mishap, which he hoped would not happen. That too is an unhelpful attitude. A little more candour is called for. If the Congress is sincere in its protestations for League co-operation in the Constituent Assembly, it must accept H.M.G.'s interpretation unconditionally. Mr. Gandhi who has been crying loudly that he is a friend of Muslims must withdraw his recent fiat to the Assam Premier to stay away from the Assembly. Nothing short of that will satisfy the League.

ATOM CONTROL

The progress made by the United Nations' Atomic Energy Commission since June, 1946 when it held its first meeting in New York has resulted in the adoption by the Commission of a five-point draft plan for atomic control. The U.S. proposals embodied in the plan seek to recommend the establishment of such control by a treaty binding on all United Nations. The tradition of divided counsels in the domain of the United Nations was kept up for the motion was passed with a majority, Poland and Russia abstaining from the voting. In its entirety the plan according to its sponsors provides the mechanism to assure that atomic energy is used for peaceful purposes and to preclude its use for war. It envisages a treaty to set up an international atomic authority for the purpose, to provide for the disposal of existing stocks of atom bombs and to specify means of determining violations of its terms. It further provides that the veto power in the U.N. Charter should not act as a fetter on the authority's work and that no Government should have the right to obstruct control or inspection. It is also a programme of enforceable sanctions as it provides for penalising the transgressors.

M. Gromyko, the Soviet delegate criticised the provisions of the U.S. plan on the plea that it did not altogether conform with the December 14, decision of the General Assembly. His opposition to the issue of eliminating veto power in respect of punishment to violators of atomic control, however, lacked convincing force. Penalisation could only be possible by the concurrence of the big Five Powers but once it was agreed upon the power of veto should not be allowed to protect those who violate their solemn agreements. In fact if the Soviet viewpoint had been accepted the principle of unanimity in this respect, could substantially weaken the hands of the international atomic authority. If peace is to be more than a feverish interlude between wars the atomic bomb must be renounced as a weapon.

Muslims Obeyed League Orders By Keeping Peace

—SUHRAWARDY

AGARTALA (Tripura),

Wednesday.

REPLYING to an address welcome, the Bengal Premier, Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy, who arrived here yesterday, regretted the 'madness' that seized the people, who had been guilty of communal rioting.

Mr. Suhrawardy said: "One shudders to think of women, who have become widows and children, who have become orphans as a result of this insanity. The issue before us is as to how the various nationalities that inhabit this country can find expression of their aspiration of culture in the country's future constitution according to their desires."

"It was senseless and stupid to imagine that the issue could be settled by Muslims and Hindus killing each other. We are to find a humane and just solution in any other way except this," he added.

Addressing a meeting yesterday at Bhairab (Mymensingh), Mr. Suhrawardy appealed to those present for co-operation between the communities, he said.

"Whatever our enemies may say it cannot be gain said that despite much excitement, Muslims in vast areas of East Bengal, where they are in an overwhelming majority have kept peace and protected the minorities because the League Ministry was in office and because the League Ministry had appealed to them to maintain law and order and to protect the Hindus."—API.

Sweeping Changes in Indonesian National Committee

BATAVIA, Wednesday.

PRESIDENT Soekarno of the Indonesian Republic today decreed sweeping changes in the composition of the Indonesian Central National Committee (Provisional Parliament) in what the Republican authorities interpreted as an effort to increase support for the Cherbon Agreement providing for a Netherlands East Indies Confederation.

The Committee is expected to consider ratification of the agreement in January. Communist members were increased from one to 35 seats and the Socialists were allocated 35. Both parties are lands East Indies Confederation.

The former predominant Muslim and Nationalist parties, which opposed ratification, were allocated 60 and 45 seats respectively.

Other allocations on the Committee—now numbering more than 400 seats—included Labour party 35, Christians eight and Catholics four.

In the territorial representative category, Sumatra was boosted from one to 51, Chinese representation was raised from five to seven, the Arabs from two to three and the Dutch from one to three.—APA.

INDONESIAN GOVT. APPROVES PRE-WAR OIL CONTRACTS

BATAVIA, Wednesday.—The Minister of Economic Affairs announced yesterday that the Indonesian Republic Government will recognise the terms of pre-war contracts for the exploitation of oil in Indonesia on condition that the Indonesian Government replaces the Netherlands East Indies Government as party to these contracts.

"Contingent upon this we recognise our responsibility under International law to maintain the continuity of pre-war contracts," said the announcement.

The Minister added that arrangements would be made immediately for key foreign oil personnel to inspect their oil fields in the interior of Sumatra and Java.—APA.

INDONESIAN SEAMEN FREE TO CHOOSE THEIR WAY

BATAVIA, Wednesday.—A Netherlands East Indies Government spokesman said today that 219 Indonesian seamen awaiting deportation from the United States would receive freedom to decide whether they want to go to Republican or Dutch controlled territory here in the Indies.

The United States Supreme Court on December 16 declined to modify an Immigration Department Deportation Order against the seamen who walked off Dutch ships in East and West coast ports of the United States. Republican authorities here confirmed that other pro-republican seamen were permitted to return to Republican areas after they were repatriated from Australia.—APA.

U SAW FOR RANGOON. CALCUTTA, Wednesday.—U. Saw, member of the Government of Burma, who arrived in Calcutta on December 14 for an eye operation, left for Rangoon yesterday by air.—API.

—LETTERS to the EDITOR—

LOGICAL COURSE FOR CONGRESS

Sir,
The statement issued by His Majesty's Government now makes it quite clear that the Cabinet Mission had intended to put forward the view which the League has through-out held. This view has been endorsed by HMG and is confirmed by legal advice obtained by HMG. This means in plain language that so far as these sub-paragraphs are concerned the League had accepted them but the Congress had rejected their plain and true meaning as now made clear in HMG's statement. HMG have maintained that "this part of the Statement as so interpreted must be considered an essential part of the scheme of May 16 for enabling Indian people to formulate a new constitution which HMG would be prepared to submit to Parliament. It should therefore be accepted by all parties in the Constituent Assembly."

The Congress must therefore come to a clear decision on the matter. Do they or do they not accept Paragraphs 19 (v) and (viii) of the Cabinet Mission's Statement of May 16 as interpreted by the Cabinet Mission and His Majesty's Government? It is earnestly to be hoped now that the matter has been authoritatively clarified the Congress will announce an unequivocal acceptance of it so as to re-assure the League and the Muslims and to enable the Muslim League to reconsider in a favourable atmosphere the question of their participation in the proceedings of the Constituent Assembly. If on the other hand the Congress should unfortunately come to the conclusion that they are definitely unable to accept this "essential part of the Scheme of May 16", Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and his Congress colleagues must make up their minds to go out of the Interim Government!

This would in no wise improve the situation; indeed it would make it much worse, but consistently with their own declarations is any other course left open to the Congress Members of the Interim Government?—Yours, etc., Delhi.

REHMAT ALI.

Sir,—At this most critical juncture when India stands on the brink of civil war it is the first and foremost duty of political leaders of all communities to do their utmost to restore the atmosphere of mutual goodwill and confidence before attempting to do anything else as nothing is more important than the country's honour which is being smirched wantonly with indecent blots of general massacres of innocent persons, loot, arson, forcible conversions and abductions.

In short disorder is the order of the

day and nobody can feel safe or move freely in the midst of such deadly perils. Those who truly and honestly love their country should now come forward to save its honour by throwing oil on troubled waters and replacing communal hatred by mutual affection. If no heed is paid to the need of the hour and inflammatory speeches are continued to be delivered by the top-ranking leaders as heretofore, the communal bitterness will be further exacerbated and storms more furious than the past ones will break out and spell the country's ruin, giving, at the same time, a new lease of life to foreign rule.

In the interest of India, it is, therefore, incumbent upon the Congress leaders representing the majority community to realise the gravity of the situation and come to terms with the League Leaders representing equality, justice and fairplay before calling a meeting of the Constituent Assembly for framing a new constitution.—Yours, etc., Ferozepore.

R. QADRIE.

CONGRESS AND THE UNIVERSITIES

Sir,—The policy of the authorities of the Allahabad University always neglectful, and of late definitely unsympathetic towards the needs of the Muslim students, reached its culmination on December 21, 46, when Premier Pant was asked to deliver the Convocation Address. And that gentleman, in spite of his allegedly overcrowded programme could find time to inflict no less than two and a half hours boredom on his audience through his most tiring 22-page address that sent to sleep even his best admirers! The Muslim students have always protested that the Allahabad University has been working as a sort of "Publicity Department" of the Congress party since the last few years. Men like Pandit Malaviya, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Mrs. Naidu, Dr. B. C. Roy and others of similar brand have been asked to address the students. Except the Nawab of Bhopal, no Muslim Public man or educationist, much less a Muslim Leaguer has ever been invited to this University, since the day it was founded. In fact the Muslim students were actually going to boycott Pant's address, but the situation was saved through the intervention of the new Vice-Chancellor. Yet the disgusting tone and temper of the Premier's speech—a piece of sheer propaganda, in crudest form, and full of commonplace, perverted, and ludicrous arguments on unity and at One Nation theory, have convinced the Musalmans that even the most sober amongst the Congress leaders are devoid of all sense of proportion. Thanks to the commonplaceness of the Premier's puerile arguments, they need no comment and stand exploded. But I strongly plead with the

Muslim students to seriously think of boycotting all the Congress propaganda addresses in different Universities, and to make vehement demands for Muslim speakers and public men enjoying the confidence of the majority of the Musalmans. It must be done not only to express our deep sense of resentment on the policies of these so-called cosmopolitan Universities but to teach the Congressmen that a University is not a Congress Pandit, where they could take the liberty of cheap propaganda in a place where constructive suggestions and advice to the outgoing graduates are greater need than cheap and unwelcome sermons of a narrow outlook as held by most Congressmen.—Yours, etc., M. M. ZAMAN.

Vice-President.

A. I. M. S. F.

Allahabad.

TWO CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLIES

Sir,—Mr. Jai Prakash Narayan in his recent Press Conference and at a public meeting, among other objectionable things, feelingly said that the Muslim League was so much hostile to the best interests of the country as not to accept the sovereignty of the Constituent Assembly. This is a very mischievous and misleading utterance, coming as it does from a responsible Congressman. His reaction was writ large on the faces of his hearers, almost all Hindus, who began to heave sighs and appeared to take Mr. Jai Prakash at his word as he was propounding his case to prove that the League was an instrument of the British and impeded the progress of India towards independence. May I ask Mr. Jai Prakash whether he was honest in his pronouncement. Did he not, in order to run down the League, speak a deliberate lie? A public man as he is, if he is so ignorant of present politics, let me tell him that what the League has objected to is the usurpation of sovereignty by the Constituent Assembly which met here on the 9th December, consisting of no-changer communalists out to foist their imperialism on the Muslim Nation. Let his Congress agree to the formation of two Constituent Assemblies, one for the Muslim majority provinces and the other for Hindu majority provinces, and see whether the League makes any fuss over the sovereignty of either. But, Sir, I am afraid this is not the under-current of his mind. You scratch a Hindu, and whatever political persuasion he may parade himself to belong to, he will prove a communalist in the ultimate analysis.—Yours, etc.,

JAN MOHD. DAWOOD.

Delhi.

Coal Production To Be Speeded-Up In Ruhr

BERLIN, Wednesday.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL Sir Brian Robertson, Deputy British Military Governor in Berlin and Lieutenant-General Lucius D. Clay, his United States opposite, will go to the Ruhr in the last week of January to urge the miners to step up coal production, it was announced here yesterday.

Coal production is seen here as the root of the problem of building up the export and import trade after the fusion of British and American zones which comes into force today.

As coal output depends greatly on food priority, the aim in zone fusion will be to increase the rations to 1,800 calories daily compared with the present 1,550 calories, the miners get nearly double the latter and their families are being given an extra allocation.

The coal target figure for 1950 is nearly four times the 1946 output.

Zonal fusion is founded on a plan for an export-import agency, with German agencies and firms taking over more and more operations though any balances accruing abroad will still be used by the Allies to offset occupation costs.—Reuter.

VOTE OF CONFIDENCE IN SYRIAS' NEW CABINET

DAMASCUS, Wednesday: Vote of confidence in Jamil Mardam Bey's new Cabinet ended the long and lively sitting of the Syrian Parliament during which the Prime Minister repeatedly assured the House that it was the Government's intention to preserve democratic liberties and to reduce the cost of living.

One of the chief criticisms against the former administration was that it left Syria one of the most expensive countries in the world to live in.—Reuter.

Iyengar's Plea For Acceptance of Grouping

CHITTOOR, Wednesday.

VIGOROUS plea for the acceptance by the Congress of the British Government's latest statement of December 6 regarding the interpretation of the Grouping clause of the Cabinet Mission's plan was made by Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Iyengar M.L.A. (Central) addressing a public meeting yesterday.

Mr. Iyengar said that the right to opt out of the group in case of 'unholy manipulations' on the part of the Muslim League was explicitly provided for in the plan and the statement of the British Government issued on December 6 made it quite clear that no constitution could be forced upon an unwilling part of the country.—API.

CABLE AND WIRELESS NEW BOARD TAKES OFFICE

LONDON, Wednesday.—The new Board of the Cable and Wireless Limited nominated by Government took office today under the scheme to nationalise Commonwealth Telecommunications.

The Chairman, Sir Stanley Angwin, announced that under his direction "the company will continue their policy of progressive improvement of overseas telegraph service in co-operation with dominions and the post office. Full co-ordination will be maintained with service departments."

"The company will continue to foster those traditions of public and personal service which have been handed down from pioneering times and will seek to hasten the day when overseas telegraphy will be brought within reach of all."—Reuter.

VEHICLE STRIKE CALLED OFF IN HYDERABAD

HYDERABAD (Dn.), Wednesday: A five-day old strike of motor transport vehicles in the State, involving about six thousand vehicles, was called off today following discussion between the union officials and the State authorities. The strike was a protest against the new motor vehicles regulations.—API.

DR. QURESHI LEAVES FOR NEW YORK

KARACHI, Wednesday: Dr. A. I. Qureshi, Economic Adviser to the Nizam's Government Hyderabad and a delegate to the All-India Economic Conference held at Karachi, left for New York today to participate in the Drafting Committee of the international trade section of the United Nations, as the Government of India representative.

Dr. Qureshi also represented India on the International Trade Conference held at London last year. India pressed for the stabilisation of the agricultural prices in that conference which agreed that the attention of the international trade organisation should be drawn to the problem immediately.—API.

U.S. SENATOR CHARGED OF IMPROPER DEALINGS

NEW YORK, Thursday: A major report of the Senate War Investigation Committee issued here today declared that Senator Theodore Bilbo of Mississippi "improperly used his high office for personal gain in dealings with war contractors."

The committee found that he had violated federal statutes and said that evidence of this had been sent to the Attorney General "for such action as may be proper."

The report said that any action regarding his fitness to serve as Senator must be for the Senate itself to decide. Senator Theodore Bilbo, who has often expressed violent anti-Negro and anti-Jewish sentiments, has previously been Governor of Mississippi for eight years.—Reuter.

ALL-INDIA STUDENTS CONGRESS

Mr. Ravindra Verma, who led the Indian students delegation to the International Students Conference at Prague, has been unanimously elected President of the All-India Students Congress at a meeting of the council of AISC held on Wednesday evening.

Mr. Ramkrishna Sinha has been elected General Secretary.—API.

PESHAWAR, Wednesday: The Afghan Premier, Sardar Shah Mahmud Khan, has left on six weeks' tour of Kandhar, Herat and Ghazni area, says a report from Kabul. The Premier is expected to go as far as Russian border.—API.